Bank Linkage Programme is being implemented by Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Banks. The details of SHGs linked to banks under the SHG Bank linkage programme during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Total SHGs financed by banks Cumulative	
	Number	Amount (Rs. crores)
2003-04	10,79,091	3,904
2004-05	16,18,456	6,898
2005-06	22,38,565	11,397

Bank-wise details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(d) The majority of the members of most of the SHGs are women, who are engaged in various economic activities.

NHBs scheme for Senior Citizens

2930. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Housing Board is developing a new project to facilitate loans for senior citizens with no obligation to return money in their life-time, if so, the details in this regard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed scheme would pose danger singals for the dependents/prospective successors and could deprive them from inheriting the property apart from creating situations of money laundering; and

(c) what decision Government have taken on the proposed scheme of NHB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that it has formulated a scheme called Reverse Mortgage Loan (RML) for Senior Citizens (62 years and above) who own self occupied

houses. RMLs Scheme involves the borrower(s) mortgaging the house property to a lender, who then makes periodic payments to the borrower(s) during the latter's lifetime. Under the proposed RML Scheme, the borrower(s) or his/her/their heirs will have option to settle the loan along with accumulated interest without sale of property. The borrower(s) will also have the option to prepay the loan at any time during the loan tenor or later without any prepayment levy/penalty/charge for such prepayments.

(c) NHB has sought approval of the Reserve Bank of India to the proposed scheme.

Share capital to UCBs

2931. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group formed by RBI to examine issue of share capital to UCBs has given its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the group has recommended abolition or deferment of application of Income Tax on UCBs as most of them are undercapitalized due to difficulty in accessing capital and retained earnings are the only source of own capital for them;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon and by when, the Income Tax would be abolished;

(e) whether Government have taken into consideration comments of all the stakeholders in this matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Working Group has submitted its recommendations to RBI. The Group has identified four new instruments to enable the UCBs to raise long term capital/quasi capital funds. These are:—

(i) Unsecured, subordinated, non-convertible redeemable debentures/ bonds.